

Schizolobium parahyba – Brazillian Tree Fern/Yellow Jacaranda

Schizolobium parahyba, commonly known as known as the Brazilian Fern Tree, Tower Tree or Yellow Jacaranda, is a fast-growing tree that is found naturally in Mexico and Brazil.

Growing to some 40m in height it has green, fern-like foliage and produces a profusion of yellow, pea-shaped flowers in spikes to 30cm in length in the Spring. As Don Bourke says it looks much like a cross between a yellow flowering Jacaranda and a tree fern as it has ferny leaves and an umbrella shape. The tree loses its large leaves in spring just before flowering occurs. The leaves, which can be up to 2m long are supposedly the largest compound leaves in the world!

This tree is best suited to tropical locations but can be grown in the subtropics.

Propagation

PRE-TREATMENT – Seed should be scarified and soaked in initially very hot water overnight.

SOWING – Seeds should be planted 1 - 2cm deep in well drained soil. They should be kept warm (preferably 25°C or higher) and constantly moist (but not damp or wet).

PLANTING OUT – Prick the individual plants out into individual tubes as soon as they are large enough to handle. Grow on until at least 40cm in height or as desired and plant out in full sun in good quality loamy soil with a good water supply.